



THE PARENT TREE OF THE CARCHI AVOCADO. (*PERSEA AMERICANA* MILL.; S. P. I. No. 53185.)

In the remote Andes of northern Ecuador lies a small region known as the Chota Valley. The Mexican avocado was introduced into this valley at an early day, and through selection and, probably, crossing with the lowland or West Indian race of avocados, many superior forms have been developed. These remained horticulturally unknown until 1921, when they were discovered by a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture and several of the best obtained for trial in the United States and other countries. As in other parts of tropical America there are few avocado orchards in Ecuador, most of the trees being found about the homes of the inhabitants or scattered among other fruit trees in small irregular plantings. (Photographed by Wilson Popenoe, San Vicente, Ecuador, February 18, 1921; F18414FS.)